

MILLENNIAL STAR



ABOUT THE COVER

HOLD THAT POSE . . . Now on with the dance! And the Scottish District Gold and Green Ball, social highlight of the year, is in progress.

On February 5th, Berkeley Hall in Glasgow will glow with the lights, the music, the warm smiles and happy countenances that go to make up a successful Gold and Green Ball. Pictured on the cover are President William Stout of the Edinburgh Branch, wearing the Gordon Tartan, Mrs. Stout, with a sash of the McLeod Tartan, Douglas Stout, whose kilt is of the ancient Robertson Tartan, and Betty Sutherland, wearing a sash of the Buchanan Tartan. This is the type of colourful, formal highland dress that many will be wearing on this gala occasion.

Other Gold and Green Balls will be held throughout the mission during the winter season, and busy M.I.A. officers and dance committees will work together to produce a bigger and better dance than ever before.

But this is only one phase of the Church's varied programme for recreation, for wholesome recreation fills a need in every person's life that cannot be satisfactorily met in any other way. In the Master's plan for living there are provisions for hours to be spent in uplifting play as well as in work. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a gospel of long faces and sad countenances, but one of joy—joy found through work and through play!

[Cover photo by Ideal Studio,
10a Greenside Place, Edinburgh.]

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

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Roscoe W. Eardley

PROVIDING— The Lord's Way

By Roscoe W. Eardley

poral affairs of the people, and special provisions were made for the administration of the temporal affairs of the Church. The Lord declared that "the office of a bishop is in administering all temporal things, . . . having a knowledge of them by the Spirit of truth." The poor, the destitute, the orphans, and the widows who could not provide for themselves were to be maintained.

The Lord revealed to Bishop Newel K. Whitney, through the Prophet Joseph Smith in 1832 that he (Newel K. Whitney) "should travel round about and among all the churches, searching after the poor to administer to their wants by humbling the rich and the proud." This revelation set the pattern for all Bishops to follow.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of two articles on the Church Welfare Plan written especially for the readers of the "Millennial Star" by Roscoe W. Eardley, member of the General Welfare Committee of the Church.

WHENEVER the Gospel has been upon the earth, the Lord's people have understood the economic laws which must be obeyed if they are to have economic freedom and independence. Enoch, for example, understood these laws so fully and taught them so successfully that he and his people were translated.

And Enoch and all his people walked with God, and he dwelt in the midst of Zion; and it came to pass that Zion was not, for God received it up into his own bosom; and from thence went forth the saying, Zion is Fled. (Moses 7: 69)

The Prophet Joseph Smith received many revelations relating to the tem-

Ten years later, in 1842, the Prophet Joseph Smith, inspired by the Lord, organized the Women's Relief Society. The sisters were not given the same responsibility that the Bishops had received concerning the poor, namely, the obligation of caring for the poor, but a very important part in the work of assisting those in need was given to the members of the Relief Society. The Prophet said: "To illustrate the object of the Society, the sisters might provoke the brethren to good works in looking to the wants of the poor, searching after objects of charity, and administering to their wants." The women were also "to assist by correcting the morals and strengthening the virtues of the community and save the elders the trouble of rebuking; that they might give their time to other duties, etc., in their meetings." (Relief Society Handbook, pp. 21-22)

The great wisdom of the Lord is plainly manifest in these instructions to the Bishops and the members of the Relief Society. If those in need seek

their Bishops, they will probably come in a spirit of self-abnegation and embarrassed beggary, but when the Bishops search after the poor, they seek the poor as brothers and friends whom they desire to help, not only with temporal things but also in spiritual things, that the spirit of the poor might be raised and exalted.

Following the world-wide depression which began in the autumn of 1929, several thousand Latter-day Saints, most of them loyal and devoted to the work of the Lord, were without means and ways of gaining a livelihood for their families and themselves. As an example, in one stake of approximately 7,400 members, 2,819 persons were wholly dependent upon relief because of their unemployment, and approximately 2,000 more who were working only half time or less were partially dependent upon relief for the necessities of life.

Because the problem was at their very doors, the Bishops and other Church officers were aware of the conditions. The words of the Lord that the Bishops were to search after their poor and administer to their wants was still the order of the Church. The General Authorities were also painfully conscious of the situation and were seeking through study, faith, and prayer, to help the Bishops discharge their God-given responsibility towards the poor and the distressed. The aim of the Church, then, as always, was not only to provide for those in need with the necessities of life, but also to assist them as quickly as possible to regain their economic independence.

President Heber J. Grant, with his counsellors, President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., and President David O. McKay, wrote a comprehensive letter to Stake Presidents explaining the situation which then existed among members of the Church August 28th, 1933. Among other things, they said:

“The Lord will not hold us guiltless if we shall permit any of our people to go hungry, or to be cold,

unclad, or unhoused during the approaching winter. Particularly He will consider us gravely blameful if those who have heretofore paid their tithes and offerings to the Church when they had employment shall now be permitted to suffer when general adversity has robbed them of their means of a livelihood. Whatever else happens, these faithful persons must not be permitted to come to want or distress now.”

The First Presidency in an inspired manner then set forth their observations, exhortations, and instructions. These instructions were practical and based on lifelong experience, and plainly indicated their great wisdom.

Another important date in the battle against unemployment and want is October 7th, 1935. The day was Monday—the Monday following the adjournment of the General Conference. The leaders from the stakes and wards of Zion—the Bishops, the Stake Presidents, and many others—gathered in the historic Tabernacle in Salt Lake City to be instructed and inspired by the General Authorities and to receive further instructions as to the help that should be given to the unemployed and the poor. It was decided to have the Bishops make an “on-the-ground study” of the conditions actually existing in every home of every ward. This was done and the information was submitted by the Bishops and compiled to form a clear picture of existing conditions on a Church-wide basis. This was a tremendous undertaking and required much careful and exacting work, but with the help of the Lord it was accomplished by the late autumn of 1935.

At the General Conference which followed in April, 1936, the First Presidency announced the inauguration of what has since become commonly known as the Church Welfare Plan.

“Our primary purpose,” said the First Presidency, “was to set up insofar as it might be possible, a system

under which the curse of idleness would be done away with, the evils of the dole abolished, and independence, industry, thrift, and self-respect be once more established amongst our people. The aim of the Church is to help people to help themselves. Work is to be re-enthroned as one of the ruling principles of the lives of our Church membership."

In subsequent General Conferences of the Church, members of the First Presidency made further explanations of the Plan. They said:

"Let us live righteously, avoid debt, live strictly within our incomes and save a little. Have on hand food, clothing, and, if possible, fuel, also, for at least a year ahead. Practice the proved and sterling virtues of honesty, thrift, chastity, sobriety, temperance, and industry. Let us purge our hearts of the love of ease. Put out of our lives the curse of idleness. Love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Obey God's law of work, for while man can work, he must work."

"Two great laws, the law of love and the law of work, are behind the Welfare Plan. The aim of the Welfare Plan is to put these two great truths into the lives of all of us." .. And again:

"The underlying purpose of the Welfare Plan is threefold, viz.:

1. To supply in a helpful and dignified manner, food, clothing, and shelter for every person in need.
2. To assist men and women who, through misfortune or ill luck or disaster, find themselves without gainful employment to become once again self-supporting.
3. To increase among the members of the Church the true spirit of the brotherhood of Christ, having in mind in all their service the divine saying, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least

of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

Elder Marion G. Romney, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve and Assistant Managing Director of the Church Welfare Programme, has set forth the "Immediate Objectives" of the Welfare Plan as follows:

"For the purpose of discharging its God-given obligations to provide for such of its members as are unable to provide for themselves and who do not have relatives who can and will provide for them, the Church has set up its welfare organization, some of the immediate objectives of which are:

1. To place in gainful employment those who are able to work, either as employees or as self-employed, and thus enable them to sustain themselves. The Church, through employment programmes and rehabilitation work, seeks to bring all or as near all of its members as possible within this classification.
2. To provide employment within the Welfare Programme itself for those who cannot be placed in gainful employment.
3. To acquire the means with which to supply those who work in the programme (referred to in No. 2 above) and the incapacitated, who receive not as charity but in recognition of past services and faithfulness, with the necessities of life. The terms 'dole' and 'charity,' as generally understood, have no place in the Church Welfare Programme.
4. To supply the needy who will accept the programme in the spirit thereof and work in it according to their respective abilities with the means of living, each 'according to his family, according to his circumstances, and his wants and needs.' (Doc. and Cov. 51:3)

—continued on page 63

THE PROPHETS

By Alma Sonne



Alma Sonne

European Mission President and
Assistant to the Council of the
Twelve

ISRAEL was a prophet nation. The prophets appeared from time to time and always at a juncture when they were most needed. The history of Israel is largely a history of these prophets. Their messages reveal in a general way the conditions of the people among whom they delivered their words of prophecy and testimony. The prophets were the inspired spokesmen of the Lord. They were not always popular. Indeed, they were frequently ridiculed, persecuted and held in disrepute. Some of them were put to death by the people to whom they had been sent. "Which one of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them," said Stephen just prior to his martyrdom. (Acts 7: 52) These chosen servants, misunderstood and maligned, devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the task assigned them. It was never an easy

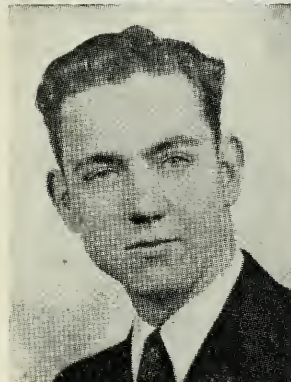
one. Their lives demonstrated a divine calling, special gifts, prophetic powers and a deep and mysterious insight into human affairs. They were sent to warn their contemporaries of impending calamities and dangers which follow in the wake of disobedience and wrongdoing. Their aim was to rescue and to fortify against the forces of moral and spiritual disintegration. Through them God gave commandments to His children.

When the Apostle Paul appeared before Felix, Festus and Agrippa he concluded his own defence with the question: "Believest thou the prophets?" That question suggests the very cornerstone of all religious performance and authority. It is the basis of man's security and well-being. The prophets appeared like lighthouses to point out the way of safety and progress. When the prophets were ignored, the lights were extinguished, and darkness enshrouded the world. So it was during the long period of human history known as the Dark Ages. "God's Spirit shall not always strive with man," for there comes a time when the wayward must reap the punishment of their wilful disobedience.

Moses, Prophet and Lawgiver, under inspiration of the Lord, led the Children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. Through him the Lord revealed the Ten Commandments and established eternal laws for man's guidance. Later on in Israelitish history, other prophets emerged from among the people with messages of wisdom, hope, and chastisement explaining man's responsibility to God and his fellowmen. Similarly, the Nephites, a branch of the House of Israel, were visited and instructed by prophets of the living God. Their object was to bring sinners to repentance and to provide safeguards against

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TEN BRANCHES REACH 100%

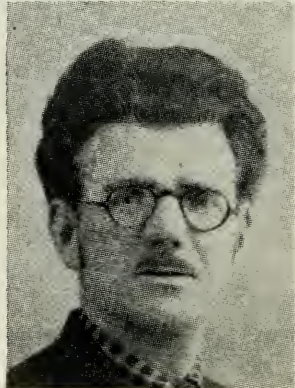


Ronald Brenner, Dublin
Ray Lawrence, Bristol

W. E. Mitchell, Brighton
C. E. Hartley, Wigan

●

IT'S "over the top" for ten branches in the "Star" circulation campaign. Here you see pictures of seven of the ten agents whose good work went into the drive to place a "Star" in every Latter-day Saint home in Britain. Three others, of whom photos were not available, are Miss Dawn Whittaker of

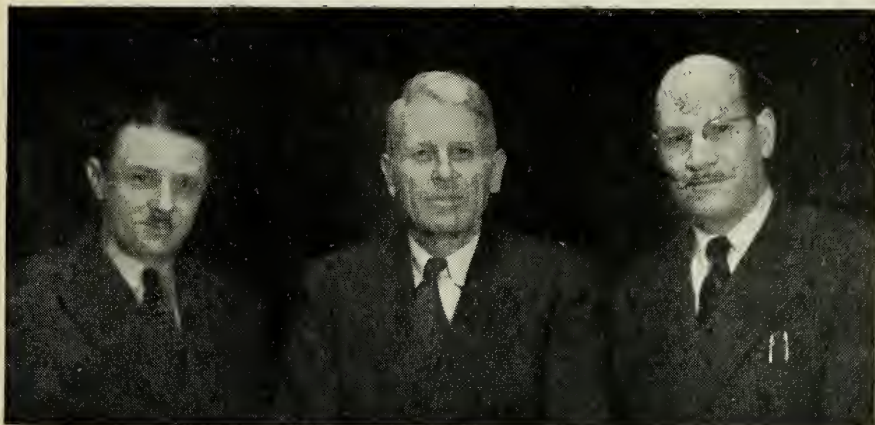


G. Quayle, Sunderland
Gillian Halliday, Stroud
James Martin, Eastwood

●

Luton, Mrs. Nancy Mason of Southampton, and Mr. John Wood of Catford Branch. All congratulations are due to these branches and to the agents, some of whom have exceeded their quotas by placing the "Star" in the hands of friends and investigators who were happy to learn it was available to them. (See page 64.)

MESSAGE from the MISSION PRESIDENCY



THE LORD has said, as recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 119, "And after that, those who have been thus tithed shall pay one-tenth of all their interest annually; and this shall be a standing law unto them forever, for my holy priesthood, saith the Lord."

To gain the blessings of the Lord compliance with all of His commandments is imperative. It is not possible to exclude tithe paying and attain the peace of mind that wholehearted compliance brings. Happiness and joy come only by humble obedience, and one hundred per cent tithe paying brings inward satisfaction and a knowledge of standing all square with the Lord, of being out of debt. There is no indication in the revelation that any person is excused, whatever position he may occupy or whatever wealth he may possess. "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed that

the field bringeth forth each year," is the word of the Lord. (Deut. 14)

The Lord gave His word to ancient Israel: "Honour the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." (Prov. 3) The promise of blessings given to ancient Israel for hearkening to the word of God is applicable today. For obedience to the commandments given in these latter days, the tithe payer falls heir to the same promises and blessings. Failure to observe the law of tithing means forfeiting claim to those blessings, "For I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." (Doc. and Cov. 82: 10)

To choose the path of obedience is the only course for every true Latter-day Saint.

SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT CONFERENCES — Spring Series

March 6th - - Birmingham
March 13th - - Norwich
March 20th - - Newcastle
March 27th - - - Hull
April 3rd - - - Wales
April 10th - - - Bristol
April 17th - - - Sheffield

April 24th - - Manchester
May 1st - - - Ireland
May 8th - - - Leeds
May 15th - - - Scotland
May 22nd - - Nottingham
May 29th - - - Liverpool
June 5th - - - London

Genealogical Department Sees Constant Growth

DURING 1941 an ever-increasing number of letters began to arrive at the British Mission Office from the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City. These contained requests for research in the British Isles and funds for this purpose. It had been the custom up to this time generally to forward the letter and remittance to the Vicar of the parish concerned requesting him to do the necessary searches.

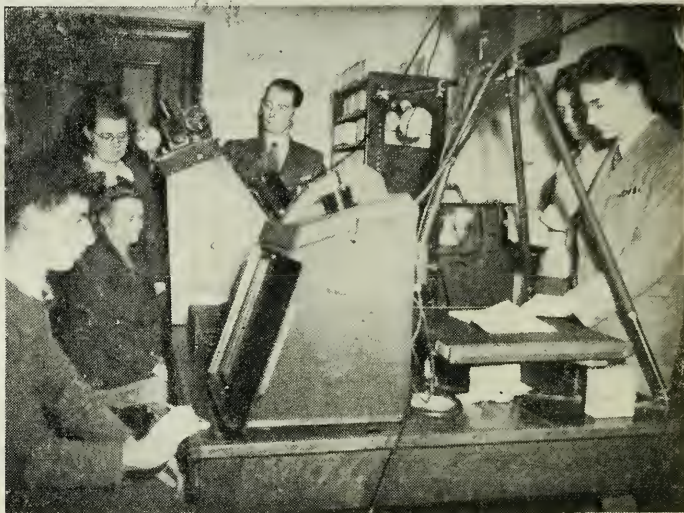
During 1941 in a meeting of the mission presidency it was recommended that I be asked to take care of these genealogical problems, and, with the help of several others who had an understanding of genealogical research, to endeavour to get the work on an organised basis.

Up to this time many letters and remittances had gone astray, or sometimes the projected research was postponed for several years, the clergy of the parishes in the main not caring whether they did the search or not. In many cases the fact that the letters came from U.S.A. and were from the "Mormons" aroused prejudice and suspicion in these clergy, and the letters often found their way to the waste paper basket. (This last item has been verified as our researchers have been told by the clergy themselves that they

By James R. Cunningham
Chairman of the British Mission
Genealogical Department

destroy letters from the "Mormons" with requests to search.)

The same feeling was manifest in Somerset House, the Census Depart-



Micro-Filming Group; Camera, top right;
Reading Machines, left-centre

ment, and various libraries. I well remember my first few months in these record houses! On one occasion my companion and I were told we would be thrown out of the public room for a trifling and unintentional infringement of a local rule. Many of our members coming to search in this public department were insulted and humiliated by purposeless questioning in the hearing of a room full of people. If the applicants to search revealed the fact that they were "Mormons," obstacles were thrown in their paths and every discouragement shown to them so they would make no future visits.

The same feeling was shown in Genealogical Societies. Our members were denied membership in these libraries, thereby being shut out from valuable collections of genealogical material.

On this troubled and tempestuous sea we ventured to launch our genealogical craft. Though seemingly so inappropriate, the time was ripe for this phase of the Gospel to grow. Within a few months increased activity made it necessary for four others to join me as full-time genealogical workers.

The young organisation had for its offices rooms in 25 Balham Park Road, remaining there for several years until an ever increasing staff demanded larger premises. Then it was given offices at British Mission Headquarters, 149 Nightingale Lane, London, S.W.12.

In 1946 the whole system of handling orders for genealogical work was re-yamped to insure more efficient supervision and to place the British Mission Genealogical Department in closer contact with the society in Salt Lake City. Instead of orders being taken individually from persons in America desirous of having searches made, since then all orders have been channelled through the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City.

With orders steadily increasing, the timely offer of a further office in the Mission Headquarters allowed for expansion, and during the summer of 1948 the Genealogical Department was given the use of two Church buildings, one in Dewsbury and another in Barnsley ten miles way, where the organisation is now housed, with headquarters at Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

There is also an office in Edinburgh, Scotland, and another in London. Our total staff at the present is twenty-seven full-time employees and seventeen part-time who are located in various parts of the country, each doing research in the area with which he is familiar.

It would be nice to say that we are keeping up with the orders from Salt Lake City, but the Church is growing

so fast that we need to be three to four times as large as we are to keep ahead of the work. However, a recent innovation is proving to be the means of solving our problems—micro-filming.

By means of a machine devised for this purpose pages of manuscript can be filmed on 35mm. film (about 1¼ in. by 1 in.). These machines in the hands of skilful operators can film 3,000 pages of material per day. The films are developed, checked, and sent to the Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, where they are indexed by the library staff and made available to the public. Six micro-film readers are provided in the Salt Lake City Library for persons desiring to view the films. The films can be magnified and projected on a ground glass screen until they are a little larger to view than the original documents.

Micro-filming, simple and effective, is a vast step forward from methods before used for gathering information, which frequently entailed hundreds of miles of travel, perhaps retracing the course to the same parish many, many times, and the copying of all extracts in longhand, often in poor light and cold, unheated rooms.

And what of the future? **It glows with promise!** Our Church's name now is welcomed in the great libraries all over this country. Permission has been given to film vast collections of material running into many millions of pages; skilled operators and researchers have been assembled together; the Church authorities have expended funds on the finest equipment, and it seems that our Heavenly Father smiles approval.

One day all of these records will be readily available on micro-film for the increasing numbers who throng the Holy Temples to do ordinance work for their dead. Perhaps the Prophet Isaiah had this in mind as one of the reasons why Saints in the latter days would say: "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths." (Isaiah 2: 3)

Our European Missions— CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By Edith L. Jenson

CZECHOSLOVAKIA, the ancient Bohemia, has a noble and great history. Christianity was accepted about 1,000 years ago. Intelligent rulers governed the country, and the kingdom became an empire which expanded to the Adriatic Sea. During its eventful history, the Czechs fought many notable battles for humanity. Early in the 15th century the corruption of the Church led the people to call for reform. A great monument in the Old Town of Prague is a constant reminder of the sacrifice and wonderful work of John Huss, priest and university professor, who became the leading voice, calling upon the church to return to the practices of the early church and to respect freedom of conscience among all men. Huss was a gentle, honest man who loved truth above all else, but he was declared an heretic and burnt at the stake in 1415. As a result of this act, the Hussite wars began, and when the victory was won by the people most of the nation was Protestant, and the whole of Europe had been awakened to the need of a purified religion. If Bohemia had done nothing else, it is entitled to the gratitude of the world for this one thing.

With this historical background in mind one can realise the significance of the date July 24th, 1929, for it was then that the Czechoslovak Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was formally opened. Elder John A. Widtsoe, in his words of dedication, made the prophetic statement that one day the restored Gospel would reach out into Poland, Hungary, and other nations of Slavic extraction from this point.

Called to be the first presiding officer of the new mission was Elder Arthur Gaeth, who was just completing a long and very successful labour in the German-Austrian Mission. With

a missionary force numbering five, work was soon started in Prague, Brno, and many smaller towns where the missionaries met with much success. They were able to speak with many people, both through meetings and personal contacts, even though the Czech language is one of the most difficult in the whole world. Translations of many tracts were started, and work was commenced on the Book of Mormon and various songs.

After an extended period of service, President Gaeth was relieved of his duties by Wallace F. Toronto, one of the original Czech missionaries. Many thanks were extended to Brother Gaeth, on whose solid foundation the mission was built and had progressed for so many years. Upon his arrival in 1936, President Toronto assumed the responsibility of carrying the activities to a still higher peak.

It was at this period that a visit of the beloved President Grant stirred much interest among the people as well as the missionaries. Although he was eighty-one when he made the long trip, he never seemed to be weary, and he was always conversing . . . humorously and seriously. His strong spirit and vitality at such an age was a testimony to the Czech people who came in contact with him.

During the next few months, history of the world was being written, and Czechoslovakia was playing an important, but sad part in the developments. In 1938, the tragic political events following the Munich Pact, which tore from the Republic one-third of its former territory and inhabitants, left a scar which has very much affected the lives and the existence of this courageous people. The

effect of such conditions on the missionary work was immediately apparent. Distracting circumstances seemed to cause interest to lag in most fields of labour and several of them had to be closed. A general feeling of restlessness and uncertainty was predominant in all of the branches.

In the face of this, however, several fine conferences were held, and the missionaries preached the Gospel to hundreds of new people and distributed the literature of the Church among

branches came to a standstill. Through the Munich Pact, the peace of Europe was preserved for a time, and in October of 1938, the Toronto family and one of the missionaries returned to Prague to continue with the work. Later, since there seemed to be considerable peace and quiet, eight of the missionaries returned to work in the field once more.

However, once more the mission plans were swept away when the Nazi occupation of March 15th, 1939, took place, and Czechoslovakia became a German protectorate. No more public gatherings of any description were permitted, and together with many disruptions, unrest and uncertainty, a terrific strain was put on the members and missionaries, and was a decided setback in the fervent attempt to gain and hold the interest of friends. The heart of the average person was too full of fears and doubts to give root to the message of the Gospel.



Karlstejn Castle—site of dedication of Czechoslovak Mission, July 24th, 1929

thousands of others, thus affording them an opportunity to learn of the saving message of the Gospel. Later in 1938 however, upon orders from the First Presidency of the Church, all of the missionaries left Czechoslovakia for Switzerland. A general European conflict was expected and mobilisation was going on in almost every European country. Upon the departure of the missionaries the affairs of the organised branches were put into the hands of capable local members. However, government orders put a stop to all public meetings, and activities in these

In spite of these things the Lord was their constant companion and guided the work. During the times of suspended meetings the elders continued to work quietly among some of the people in their homes. At the close of this period four applications for baptism were received, and thus the efforts were not entirely fruitless.

However, grim political events, which had by now brought the world to the verge of a terrible second world conflict, prompted the First Presidency to re-call all missionaries from the Euro-

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THE CHURCH IN OXFORD

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the rapid conversions of Wilford Woodruff's day do not often find a counterpart in the labours of our present day missionaries, the message of the restored Gospel continues to find a place in the hearts of truth-seekers when borne in humility and power by servants of the Lord. Here is a story of the success that crowned ten months' labour in the University town of Oxford. It is told by Elder Reed A. Benson, who, with his companion, Elder Don M. Wheeler, was assigned to open up Oxford to the preaching of the Gospel. Labouring successively as companions to Elder Benson during this period were Elder Wheeler, Elder George T. Choules, Elder Quinn McKay, and Elder Sherman Sheffield.

By Reed A. Benson

Becoming acquainted with several city officials led us into grand opportunities for spreading our message. Permission to hold open-air meetings at the famous Martyr's Memorial and at one other busy intersection was gained as a result of these contacts. We also were permitted to hold open-air meetings at the Pressed Steel Works at Cowley during the lunch period. With our branch attendance being augmented through these meetings we next tried special Book of Mormon lectures which were advertised throughout the city.

In July our branch membership was increased by the baptism of four members of a family in Reading whose interest in the Church had been aroused by a newspaper article printed some months previous. After a short period of investigation they felt moved upon to apply for baptism, and they were welcomed as new members of the Church and of the Oxford Branch.

DURING March, 1948, we arrived in Oxford with the instructions to set up a branch of the Church. We had six members to work with, but five of them, being connected with the University, were often out of town for extended periods of time.

By prayerful study we decided to tract the areas of young married couples living in prefabricated houses, and by trying a number of experiments, through the Lord's inspiration, we developed a system of tracting and cottage meetings that soon netted twenty active investigators.

After much searching we found suitable facilities to hold our first Sacrament meeting on April 12th, 1948. Eight were in attendance. We soon saw that the success of the branch would depend on the number of investigators who attended meetings, so in every way possible we tried to make our services inviting. In addition, display tables were arranged and a lending library established. June 19th saw the branch formally opened with the missionaries serving as branch president and branch clerk.

Two months later we had the good fortune of obtaining a display stall at the famous St. Giles Fair, where over 100,000 people had the opportunity to witness the fruits of Mormonism. (See "Millennial Star," Vol. 110, p. 320)

On September 12th the first Oxford Branch conference was held, with thirty-four in attendance, among which were numbered sixteen investigators. From that day forward the investigators usually doubled the members in attendance.

Our next step forward was the organization of two Primaries, and in January a third Primary was added to the number.

When the London District conference was held on November 7th, Oxford proudly brought forth four applicants for baptism, the first fruits of our

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RED LETTER NOTES

from the experiences of our missionaries

THE MISSIONARY'S DREAM TOWN

—by M. J. Tolley

As you tracted from door to door and street to street without success, did you ever envy Heber C. Kimball, Brigham Young, Wilford Woodruff, and others who first preached the restored Gospel to such ready believers? Did you wish that you could find a place where the false stories about polygamy were unknown; where "Mormon" elders had never been before? I have found such a place.

In the lovely, picturesque town of South Molton, Devon, the birthplace of my grandfather and his father before him, my dreams were realised. I was there to look for genealogy. First I must find suitable accommodation . . . there was a policeman . . . I would ask him. Within ten minutes the Lord blessed me with a good place to stay and an introduction to a young man whose mother was a Tolley, the same name as my own

How the way was opened for me on every hand seemed almost incredible. Every day brought new and lasting experiences as I visited parish after parish searching for the names of those departed ones. I seemed to feel that they were near helping all they could . . . perhaps they were. But that is another story. This time I must tell how a lot of missionary work was accomplished with hardly any effort on my part.

At the dinner table one day was an elderly gentleman, the head of the local food office and a Methodist lay preacher on the side. Soon I was telling him who I was and what I was doing. He became very interested.

We talked "Mormonism" all during the lunch hour. I gave him all the literature I had, which he distributed among his friends. The next day he wanted to read the Book of Mormon. I wrote for a Book of Mormon and more tracts. Two days later he purchased another Book of Mormon for a friend in his office who also had become interested in our message.

On Sunday he invited me to his home, as he wasn't on circuit to speak that day. When we arrived at his church he introduced me to the preacher in charge. When I informed him that I, too, was a minister of the Gospel, this good man invited me to take the service.

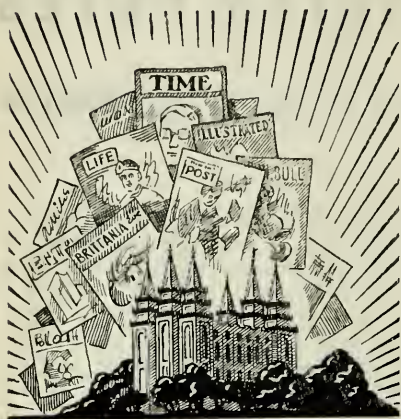
"I'd rather not take your service," I replied, "but I will be glad to take part of the time."

He talked about Enoch seeing God, which gave me my cue. Using revelation past and present for my subject, I told them a lot about Joseph Smith as a prophet of these latter days. Afterwards they thanked me for my testimony.

The next day my good friend had arranged for me to speak at a Toc H club. The Articles of Faith was the topic of my talk. About twenty-five members were in attendance, including the local vicar and two Methodist preachers. Some of their questions I shall never forget. All my tracts were given away to them, and a Book of Mormon was purchased for the club members, many of whom expressed a desire to read this new witness for Christ.

—continued on page 64

THE CHURCH AND THE PRESS IN BRITAIN



THE following are extracts from recent publications in Great Britain pertinent to the Church:

The Isis (Oxford)

MORMONS IN OXFORD

"Motor salesman is Bishop," the big white-haired chief of the Mormon Plan mission to Europe told an Oxford audience last week, to illustrate his church's informal organisation. Alma Sonne, a banker, as any intelligent, movie-educated child could guess from his distinguished appearance and "Bold Look" suit, spoke of his work in Europe. In spite of a ballyhoo of pamphlets and posters addressed to the "B.R." luncheon crowds, there was but a sparse audience to distract attention from the bizarre Byzantine glory of the Town Hall's interior. Mormon strong-soul squads were in attendance, dressed in smart, uniform suits to distribute shiny magazines. Neatness and sobriety are part of the creed. It has a big future in Oxford.

The Evening Mail (Dublin).

SPECTRUM FRIENDLY CIRCLE

On Monday last Spectrum started their December programme with an unusual and interesting lecture by an American Missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the correct name of a body of worshippers often mis-called "Mormons." The lecturer referred to the many contradictory tales and rumours which are still believed by many intelligent people about this Church, and went on to give a short survey of the growth of the Latter-day Saints, illustrated by two excellent technicoloured films which showed, in addition to views of Salt Lake City, some of the very beautiful scenic highlights of that region of America. The lecturer explained that he was one of some 3,000 men and women, ordinary untrained members of this church, who voluntarily give up their business or studies to spend several years of their lives in different parts of the world. They are unpaid missionaries, who start from home, impelled by their message of certain truth which is to enrich mankind here and hereafter. For their livelihood they depend on their own small savings or are supported by friends or relatives.

For basic doctrine the Bible is turned to, but this church contends that revelation and miracles are not dead but are continuing throughout the present generations. The Latter-day Saints have no conflict except with error and do not war against any other nation, sect, or society.

NOTICE OF EXCOMMUNICATION

On January 1st, 1949, Dora Green was excommunicated from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for un-Christianlike conduct.



The Children's Page

By June Carlisle

A VALENTINE

A smile is a valentine.
A loving thought is too,
And when you send them out,
They all come back to you.

MY VALENTINE

I'm going to give a valentine
That comes straight from my heart;
Although it's meant to last all year,
Each day I'll give a part.

It's made of love and thoughtful deeds,
Kind words are also in it;
It's going to be such jolly fun
I want to start this minute.

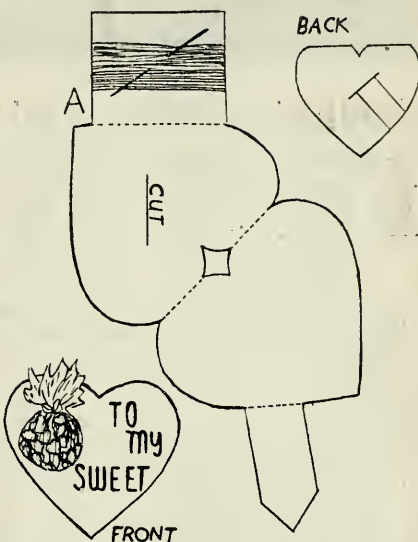
I'll take this valentine with me
Each place that I may go,
Because I want to share its joy
With everyone I know.

MANLINESS OF A BOY

Several days ago I happened to board a bus that was crowded. A young boy—perhaps twelve years old—offered me his seat with a smile. He soon found another seat, but popped up when a second woman entered, pulled off his cap, which was fringed with rags, and with such a jolly smile made room for the newcomer. Five times in five minutes that smile broke over the face of the young traveller as he gave his seat again and again. Soon everyone in the bus was smiling in sympathy. No one thought whether his clothes were ragged but someone said: "I wish my boys enjoyed being gentlemanly as much as he does," and a fine looking man remarked quite loudly to his neighbour, "That's the sort of manliness that makes the great and good men."

MAKE THIS VALENTINE

Draw carefully on stiff red paper a



heart diagram indicated in Figure A. The heart should be 3 inches across at the widest point. Cut out. Wind darning cotton of various colours on the flap, and pin a small needle to it. Bend the heart on the dotted line. Fold the heart shut with the needle and thread on the inside, then push the pointed flap into the slit so that the mending kit will stay put. Write your valentine greeting on the front.

Put some small paper hearts in a square of cellophane or tissue paper and fold the paper over to look like a sack or bag and tie to your paper heart with a narrow red ribbon.

TRICKY

Arrange fourteen matches in such a manner as to form five equal diamonds. Use all matches and none are to be broken or overlapped. (Answer on page 64.)



Editor

WHERE WILL YOU BE TOMORROW ?

IT IS AN UNWRITTEN LAW of the universe that all living things can continue to improve, whether they be of human kind or the lowest extreme in the scale of life. In Latter-day Saint vernacular this order of all existence is called eternal progression. For man, above all other earthly creations, the path upward is rich in opportunities to perfect himself. Although a man's rate of progress depends upon the amount of conscious effort he puts forth, limitless possibilities are open to him.

Within each human breast is a spark of divine aspiration. All men and women have felt an inner desire, at times more poignant than others, to be something better than they are. That spark of "discontent divine" is not a mocking shadow of the impossible but is, for those who are willing to work for it, a revelation of what may well come to pass.

Ask yourself this question: "Am I completely satisfied with the way I am?" If you are not, you can do something about it; you need not remain the way you are. If you have a desire for self-improvement, you have already started on the upward climb.

To continue onward and upward unflinchingly, that desire must be directed by a clear-cut idea of what you are seeking at each step along the way. Immediate goals may not be ultimate goals, but each new height ascended will bring into view new and greater heights to climb. Without a definite direction you may wander all over the mountain side without ever reaching the peak. Decide where you want to be tomorrow. Then go there.

Have faith. Faith not only is "the assurance of things hoped for," but it gives power in itself. What do you lack that others possessed who have travelled the way before you? Assess your own worth. The most significant differences between men are usually spiritual, not mental or physical. Why is it that one man may succeed when another, seemingly possessed of equal physical and mental capacities, may fall far short of his goal? Often it is faith, or lack of faith, that proves the deciding factor.

No victory can be won without persistence in the face of opposition. Moving up the ladder of progression is not accomplished without struggle. Legion are the men and women who have fallen by either side of the road leading to achievement because their perseverance did not prove equal to the constant effort required. Their good intentions melted in the heat of the day or wore too thin for service with constant rubbing against adversity. Only determination to go forward could have kept good intentions fresh and serviceable.



Another source of strength for the upward climb may be found in association with people of uplifting character. Noble souls who have grown great through righteous living radiate to all those around them a portion of the light within, bringing out in others latent beauty that might have slumbered on had not the proper chord been touched. The value of associating with men and women of high ideals and accomplishments cannot be overestimated.

With each step upward the obligation and opportunity for service to others becomes greater. And therein lies the secret of continued development. "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days," said the Preacher. The surest stepping stone to perfection is service to others.

Service can be rendered in many ways. Often the mere radiation of a happy personality and a word of encouragement at the right moment may give a fellow traveller heart to continue his journey. There are few men who cannot recall some occasion when a word of praise and appreciation received in a moment of despondency brought renewed courage to carry on, or when some personal tragedy might have been averted by a few kind words.

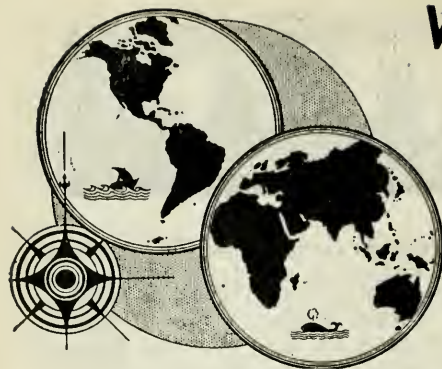
A thousand pages could be written about the way to self-improvement, and then the subject might not be fully covered. But whatever was written, if based upon true principles, would be embodied in the practices and teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Contact with the Church fans the flame of desire for progression. In its doctrines clearly defined goals are laid out, with each field of human endeavour made to stand out in its true relation to the central purpose of life. Through a varied programme of activities, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual growth are all enhanced. A living faith in God and in the destiny of man provides an assurance of ultimate success that only the Gospel can bring. Opportunities for service are manifold, and the influence of sweet, strong, uplifting personalities may be felt wherever the Latter-day Saints meet in harmony to carry out the Lord's work. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a super plan for self-improvement. It is the way of eternal progression.

We stand today where the effort of all our yesterdays has placed us. Immediately before us lies opportunity unbounded to become better than we are; it can be done. There is no better time to begin than today, for tomorrow we will be the sum of all our yesterdays—plus today.

Where will you be tomorrow? That is for you to decide.

—ROBERT E. RIGGS

World Church News



CHURCH GAINS MORE SUSQUEHANNA LAND.—As a result of negotiations being carried on during the past two years the Church now is in possession of title to nearly 200 acres of historic land on the banks of the Susquehanna River, near the former town of Harmony, Pennsylvania.

On this property was located the first residence of the Prophet Joseph Smith after his marriage to Emma Hale, daughter of Isaac Hale. It contains the old Isaac Hale property, where Joseph Smith once lived and where part of the Book of Mormon was translated. The property purchased goes to the banks of the Susquehanna River and contains the spots where Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery received the Aaronic Priesthood and Melchizedek Priesthood by restoration from heavenly messengers.

CENTENNIAL TO HONOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL FOUNDER.—Marking the centennial of the establishment of the first Sunday School in the Rocky Mountain area, the year 1949 will see special observances in honour of the event and the Sunday School's founder, Richard Ballantyne. Centennial programmes are planned for December 4th, 1949, at Sunday evening Sacrament services throughout the Church, commemorating a century of organised Latter-day Saint Sunday Schools.

On August 26th, 132nd anniversary of Richard Ballantyne's birth, programmes will be held at two widely

separated sites. One large celebration will be held in Salt Lake City where he conducted the first Sunday School in the West. The other observance, being arranged by British Mission leaders, will be held at his birth place in Scotland.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREASURER LAUDED AS NEW M.I.A. HEAD.—“The wisdom of going west for fresh and vital leadership was vindicated in the inaugural speech of Wallace F. Bennett, Salt Lake City Latter-day Saint, as new president of the National Association of Manufacturers,” Merryle Stanley Rukeyser, nationally known financial writer, commented at the beginning of his column recently. He devoted his long column to an analysis of Elder Bennett's address. “Time” magazine also printed a most complimentary commentary on his appointment.

An active member of the Church, Elder Bennett is now serving as general treasurer of the Deseret Sunday School Union. Two recent L.D.S. songbooks contain lyrics written by him. His son, Elder Wallace G. Bennett, recently released as European Mission Secretary, flew from Britain to New York to be present for the inaugural speech.

WORK BEGINS ON NEW TONGAN COLLEGE.—With Tongan members of the Church supplying most of the labour, work is now well under way on a new Church college—the Makeke College at Liahona Plantation, seven miles from Tongan Mission headquarters at Hukualofa.

Makeke College will consist of two school buildings containing an auditorium, eight class rooms, domestic science department, manual arts room, and principal's office. In addition the college has 270 acres of choice farm land and 100 head of Aberdeen Angus cattle, one of the finest herds in the islands.

The Church in Europe



FILM SUCCESS IN FINLAND.—Two “movie” elders who are touring the Finnish Mission have met with unusual success. Elders Newell Erickson and John Omer have shown 16mm. films eighty-three times in several large Finnish cities to a total of 17,414 people. In each city more requests for showings were made than could be scheduled. During January the elders completed their tour by showing the films in the northern Swedish-speaking districts. In response to many requests another tour with the films may take place later on this year.

CZECH RADIO BROADCASTS CHURCH PROGRAMMES.—Four radio programmes of Tabernacle organ and choir numbers were broadcast over the Czechoslovakian radio network recently. One was an excellent fifty minute presentation and the other three were half an hour in length. There is promise of further programmes and possibly regular ones to be inaugurated in 1949.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN NETHERLANDS. — Writes President Cornelius Zappey, “On November 26th we held a Thanksgiving service for which the government gave us one of the most beautiful halls in the Hague. We advertised in English in the news-

papers and held the programme in English, as American citizens, without mentioning religion or politics. The great hall was filled to overflowing, and our fine, young elders conducted an appropriate Thanksgiving service. The crowd was very appreciative, and although not a word was mentioned about religion, a great number of people wanted to know who those fine young men were. Some people from the Embassy attended and asked our boys to dinner in their homes. All in all, it will do much good whenever the people in that great crowd meet our missionaries again.”

EUROPEAN MISSION HEADS MEET. — President and Sister Sonne and Elder Flint Dickson met with the presidents of the West German, Swiss-Austrian, and French Missions during their recent trip to France and Switzerland.

PALESTINE-SYRIAN MISSION RESUMES ACTIVITY.—December 23rd, 1948—Aleppo—After 17 days of Martial Law in Syria, during which time no evening meetings could be held and many other restrictions were in force, the elders in Aleppo have been able to resume more normal activity.

AUSTRIAN OUTLOOK GOOD. — Even though there are no missionaries labouring in Austria, there has been a splendid upswing of activity in the Austrian branches of the mission. Attendance at meetings improved over the previous year and the branches are well organised and officered.

After favourable economic recovery the outlook for the members there looks rosier. Clothing is plentiful. Foods of high calory content are still needed. The Saints in Switzerland have made arrangements to send in used shoes as there is a need for them too. With the help of the Swiss Saints these needs are being met as they occur.

British Mission



ARRIVALS AND ASSIGNMENTS

The following missionaries arrived in the British Isles on December 8th:

Elder **ELTON LORENZO HARMON** of Idaho Falls, Idaho, was assigned to labour in the Leeds District.

Elder **EDMUND JOSEPH McCLURE** of Wendell, Idaho, was assigned to labour in the Hull District.

Elder **GRANT WILSON ANDERSON** of Pleasant Grove, Utah, was assigned to labour in the Norwich District.

Elder **BRIGHAM DELWORTH GARDNER** of Afton, Wyoming, was assigned to labour in the Manchester District.

Elder **DAVID NOSAY PHELPS** of Kaysville, Utah, was assigned to labour in the Hull District.

Elder **FORREST OSBORNE HALL** of Burley, Idaho, was assigned to labour in the Manchester District.

Elder **FRANKLIN KELSO MEADOWS** of Pocatello, Idaho, was assigned to labour in the Scottish District.

Elder **LORIN McKNIGHT ROGERS** of Lewiston, Utah, was assigned to labour in the Newcastle District.

Elder **LODENE B. CAMPBELL** of Emmett, Idaho, was assigned to labour in the Nottingham District.

The following missionaries arrived in the British Isles on December 29th:

Sister **ELIZABETH CALDER GARDNER** of San Diego, California, was assigned to labour in the Nottingham District.

Sister **LILLIAN ELIZABETH HAYNES** of Rupert, Idaho, was assigned to labour in the Norwich District.

Elder **DEAN R. ROMRELL** of St. Anthony, Idaho, was assigned to labour in the London District.

Elder **CHARLES LYMAN WELLING** of Cowley, Wyoming, was assigned to labour in the London District.

Elder **K. E. SHELTON** of Salt Lake City, Utah, was assigned to labour in the Birmingham District.

Called to labour in the British Mission on January 13th was Sister **THELMA GREEN** of Birmingham, who was assigned to the Norwich District.



RELEASES

Elder **ALBERT NORTON CHASTON** was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 14th. Elder Chaston laboured in the Leeds and Norwich Districts.

Elder **DEAN U. OTTLEY** was released as a missionary to the British

Mission on December 15th. Elder Ottley laboured in the Newcastle District.

Elder **FRANK CALVERT DAVIS** was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 15th. Elder Davis laboured in the Welsh, Manchester, and Scottish Districts.

Elder WILLIAM RICHARD WAITE was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 15th. Elder Waite laboured in the Norwich, Liverpool, Irish, and London Districts, serving as District President in the last.

Elder ROYDON NALDER RICE was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 15th. Elder Rice served in the Hull, London, and Manchester Districts

Elder ROBERT MONTGOMERY FRANCIS was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 16th. Elder Francis served in the Welsh and Sheffield Districts.

Elder JOHN M. NEWAY was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 16th. Elder Neway laboured in the Leeds District.

Elder CHARLES EDWARD SCOTT, Jnr., was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 16th. Elder Scott laboured in the Manchester District.

Elder MARK LESLIE SOUTHWORTH was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 16th. Elder Southworth laboured in the Irish and Hull Districts.

Elder DOUGLAS WILLIAM LOOSLE

was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 16th. Elder Loosle laboured in the Newcastle District and as Travelling Lecturer.

Elder EARL RAY McENTIRE was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 16th. Elder McEntire laboured in the Scottish and Nottingham Districts.

Elder KOLN GUNN McKAY was released as a missionary to the British Mission on December 16th. Elder McKay served in the Manchester District and in the Nottingham and Hull Districts as District President.

Elder JERROL MOSS BOYER was released as a missionary to the British Mission on January 14th. Elder Boyer laboured in the London District, the Nottingham District, where he served as District President, and in the London Office.

Elder JOHN NELSON CANNON was released as a missionary to the British Mission on January 14th. Elder Cannon laboured in the Liverpool District and in the Isle of Man.

Elder LINDEN B. DIAL was released as a missionary to the British Mission on January 14th. Elder Dial laboured in the Scottish and Birmingham Districts.



APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Sister **SYLVIA LORAIN MOSS** was transferred from the London District to the London Office on December 17th.

Sister **DONA FAYE CLARK** was transferred from the London District to the London Office on December 17th.

Sister **DONETTA JUNE CARLISLE** was transferred from the London Office to the London District on December 17th.

Sister **LEAH LLOYD** was transferred from the London Office to the London District on December 17th.

Elder GARTH G. EAMES was appointed president of the Birmingham District on January 20th.

Elder DOUGLAS C. DUNCAN was transferred from the Nottingham District to the London District on December 28th.



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT

Reported by Florence I. Blackman

At Kidderminster on December 23rd the M.I.A. chorus treated the local hospital to a programme of carol singing. The following Sunday children of the Sunday School put on a pageant, "The Birth of the Christ Child," while in the evening members of the branch presented "The Empty Room," a play giving a glimpse of the ways of the world at the time of the Saviour's birth. On December 30th an all branch party was held.

Kidderminster Relief Society was re-organised on January 9th as follows: Hazel Stevens, president, with Ruby Gardner and Ruth Williams as first and second counsellors. Dulcie F. Collins is secretary.

Carols, games, dancing, refreshments, and gifts from Father Christmas all were combined for a successful Northampton Branch social on December 21st. The day before Primary and Sunday School had joined forces to put on a programme of scenes depicting the birth of Christ, with children singing carols for background music.

Everybody feasted on meringues, chocolate eclairs and a magnificent Christmas cake, made by Superintendent Harry Dyson, at the Birmingham Branch Sunday School party. An attractively decorated chapel and gifts for all added to the festivity of the occasion.

On New Year's Eve a dance was held at the Birmingham chapel with over 100 people present to welcome the new year with games and dancing.

BRISTOL DISTRICT

Reported by Gerald W. Wilkinson

Christmas festivities opened merrily in the Stroud Branch with the M.I.A.

party on December 23rd. Approximately seventy people attended and laughed their way through fun and games, and thanks to the kindness of American members everyone drew a gift from the Christmas box.

The Stroud Primary Christmas Party was held on December 21st. Four mothers and eighteen children enjoyed games and a splendid Christmas tea. Each child received a present from the Christmas box.

Cheltenham Branch Primary New Year's Day party was enjoyed by fifteen children at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Betteridge. After tea a film show given by Ron. Green was received enthusiastically. Father Christmas paid a visit to the group and presented each child with a gift.

The Bristol members bade farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Hayward and their son Royston, who are immigrating to Alberta, Canada, at a party given in their honour in the Bristol Branch hall on January 5th. The Haywards, although members but a short time, have set a fine example of leadership and co-operation in the Bristol Branch.

The most outstanding social event in the Bristol District for many years, the semi-formal Gold and Green Ball,



was held at the Folk House, Colledge Green, Bristol, on January 15th. Over 100 members and friends enjoyed dancing to the music of Les Jenkins and his orchestra. Intermission entertainment was provided

by the Stroud Branch Gleaner Girls who gracefully presented an exhibition dance, "My Dream Waltz." One of the highlights of the evening was the traditional crowning of the queen.

Patricia Carey was crowned queen by President Leland W. Rawson, her attendants being Jennifer Middleton, candidate of the Cheltenham Branch, and Barbara Wheatley, the queen of the Stroud Branch.

HULL DISTRICT

Reported by Betty Pashby

With Christmas and festivity everywhere the Sunday School children of Hull Branch held their party on December 17th. Plenty of games and lots of food made the party a great success. The children were in high spirits, and the climax of the evening was a visit from Santa Claus, who brought some lovely gifts.

Primary children of Hull had a party on December 29th which proved to be an exceptionally fine one. The children were presented with gifts, including a packet of sweets for each, sent from the children of the Miller Ward, U.S. America. A vote of thanks is sent to them.

Wednesday, December 30th, greeted yet one more party, a fine banquet which parcels from America helped to make a great success.

A good beginning to the New Year was the baptism of George W. Daggett of Scarborough.

On December 23rd a party was given for the Primary children of Scarborough in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crosby, who lend one room of their house for Primary use. These good people are investigators and have provided these Primary facilities for the past six months. Elders Robert Parry and Norman Ainscough organised the games. The evening was rounded off by the presentation to each kiddie of a bag of candies and chocolates which were kindly provided by District President Allen Swan's mother.

IRISH DISTRICT

Reported by Andre Anastasiou

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a branch get-together. The Belfast Branch members are firm be-

lievers "that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," so boxing day a social was held for members, friends, and investigators. The social was given considerable publicity with the result that a large group was in attendance. There was plenty of variety in the games and skits, the missionaries presenting a very humorous burlesque of a street meeting. Ice cream was served for refreshment. There were approximately seventy people in attendance. These socials do a good job of cementing friendship between members and investigators.

Also included in the Christmas round of festivities was a kiddies' party given for the Belfast Primary on December 18th. The untiring efforts of Mrs. Ethyl Ditty and her associates were well rewarded. Games, ice cream and the much sought after chewing gum were the highlights of a very happy time. As a grand finale Santa Claus paid a visit and presented each child with a gift. As a result of this and similar activities, the Belfast Primary is growing steadily.

News from Dublin also included a Christmas party on December 19th. This was a combined children and adult social. There was a beautiful Christmas tree, decorated by the missionaries; likewise the hall also was decorated to look very festive. A fine Christmas programme was presented and each of the children received a toy.

LEEDS DISTRICT

Reported by Hal K. Campbell.

The holiday season is over, and we look back upon it with happiness.

Only one thing marred the festive occasion. Elder John Newey, an all-time missionary in the Leeds District, left for his home in California. Parties and special gifts presented at Bradford, Dewsbury, Leeds, and Halifax showed the love of the Saints and friends for the departing elder. All the District wished him happiness as he left.

The District M.I.A. choir, provided

with a lorry, went caroling throughout the district, stopping at members' and friends' homes along the way. Everybody enjoyed it very much.

A district Christmas party directed by the Bradford M.I.A. was made enjoyable by carols, exchanging of gifts, refreshments, and a very fine play presented by some of the Bradford girls. Even Santa Claus, who was in attendance, seemed to enjoy it.

Each of the branches had fine Christmas celebrations of their own.

A special Primary party of one of the four Primaries of the Dewsbury Branch, under the direction of Misses Day, Marsden, and Garner, was a fine success. Games, carols, and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

A New Year's party of games and dancing was also enjoyed by all who attended.

Elder Norville Craven has been appointed district clerk.

A baptism was held at Bradford on January 15th. Baptised by Elder Keith Romney were Robert Proctor of Dewsbury and Harry Greenhough of Bradford. They were confirmed by James R. Cunningham and Elder Norville Craven, respectively.

LIVERPOOL DISTRICT

Reported by Stephen B. Nebeker.

On December 9th a public meeting was held in Accrington. One hundred and seventy investigators and friends listened attentively while President Leland Rawson, President Selvoy Boyer, and President Alma Sonne and his wife told of the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ. The extensive advertising campaign which preceded the meeting served effectually in breaking down some of the age old prejudice against the "Mormons."



On December 26th the Burnley Branch presidency was re-organised. John R. Moore, Will Duckworth, and James R. Pickles, president and first and second counsellors, respectively, were released. Elder Miles H. Johnson was sustained as branch president with Albert Pickup as first counsellor. A second counsellor will be appointed later.

Yuletide parties took the spotlight throughout the last month. Members and friends in the Blackburn Branch enjoyed a well planned Christmas Eve party at the home of Brother and Sister Shorrock. Games, songs, and refreshments embracing the Christmas spirit made the evening a great success. The Liverpool, Preston, and Burnley Branches held Sunday School parties during the Christmas season. Games, songs, and gifts made the occasions memorable for those who attended.

The M Men and Gleaners of the Liverpool Branch M.I.A. presented a huge Christmas parcel of toys, books, and sweets to the orphan children of the Cottage Homes, Fazakerly. It was received with thanks and acknowledgment by a letter.

LONDON DISTRICT

Reported by Jean Silsbury.

On December 6th Luton's M.I.A. produced the play, "I'll Eat My Hat," and Beehive girls produced "This Is The Place." On January 5th these same girls cooked a fine dinner for their branch president and missionaries. Another recent activity was the Luton bazaar, where a variety of stalls displayed everything from clothes to toffee apples. One most popular booth was Elder J. M. Reed's photographer's shop. With President Alan Osborne acting as M.C., a fun-filled New Year's social and dinner was held January 1st.

The Gravesend Branch held a banquet on December 30th, the Relief Society preparing the food which in large part came from M Men and Gleaner parcels from America.

Praise for the success of a Brighton

Branch children's party should go to its organisers, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Weir, and Mrs. Perry, and to Elder Evans Royle and President W. E. Mitchell for a well planned branch Christmas party, at which fifty-six were present.

Highlights of the South-London Branch Christmas season were a children's party arranged by Primary and Sunday School officers and attended by sixty-four; an M Men and Gleaner dance, music by Jack Wynn and his Winners; a farewell social held in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wynn and family who have since emigrated to America; and a Relief Society sale of work.

Catford Branch held its children's party on December 31st and followed in the evening with an M.I.A. New Year's party arranged by Miss Vera Kirby.

On December 19th President Alma Sonne and President Selvoy J. Boyer addressed a public meeting in Southampton.

On December 19th Elder George T. Choules baptised John A. Weir and Ada Weir of Brighton. They were confirmed by Elder Byng Beazer and Elder Franz Johansen.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT

Reported by Norman T. Woodhead

Christmas has been a busy and enjoyable season for the district, highlighted by numerous branch parties. At Hyde the home of Mr. and Mrs. Boothroyd was thrown open to a social for which the Sunday School organised the entertainments and the Relief Society provided the refreshments. A cinema show, community singing, and Father Christmas all added to the success of the occasion.

In Radcliffe thirty-five children attended a Primary party, and another was enjoyed by members of the M.I.A. Of special interest at the M.I.A. party were the songs of "Carmen Miranda," well portrayed by Miss June Lomas.

On Christmas Eve Rochdale Branch

held their annual Christmas party, a well attended evening's entertainment. Relief Society and Father Christmas arrived in time to give all the children a present. Around the large Christmas tree decorated by the M.I.A. were placed gifts of foodstuffs and toys for the sick. After the party the M.I.A. went carol singing, and a horse and cart were provided for carrying the tree and anyone who felt tired. A large number of people were visited and more gifts of food collected, which were later given to sick children.

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

Reported by Joyce H. Tiffen

On December 11th a baptismal service was held in Sunderland under the direction of Elder Joseph Fisher of the district presidency. Elder George Sonntag gave a talk on "Baptism and the Holy Ghost." Four adult candidates were baptised and confirmed as follows: Alexander Amptill, baptised by Elder Neal Capel and confirmed by Elder Merrill Balls; Ethel Isobel Birkett, baptised by Elder Grant Hofer, confirmed by Elder Clarence L. Olsen; Mary Isobel Youngson Binney, baptised by Elder Burchell Hopkin, confirmed by Elder Thomas V. Thomas; Peter Binney, baptised by President Frederick Oates, confirmed by Elder George T. Sonntag.

On December 10th South Shields Relief Society held a bazaar opened by Elder Neal Capel. A sum of £12:10:0 was realised. From goods made by themselves Primary members raised £1:10:0.

A farewell social was held at Carlisle January 13th honouring Elder Clarence L. Olsen. Wishing him God-speed and every happiness on his return to Canada the Saints presented him with a penknife, manicure scissors, and file. Elder Olsen has for the past nine months served as Carlisle Branch president.

On December 28th Middlesbrough Branch held a Christmas social conducted by President Derick Harland. Relief Society members provided re-

freshments, and eighty-five persons spent an enjoyable evening.

Darlington Christmas festivities were held December 27th. Fifty persons enjoyed games and community singing, every child receiving cakes, sweets, and lemonade.

Sunderland Scouts and Beehive girls held a social December 14th, the evening's entertainment being conducted by Scout Master Frederick W. Oates, Peter Binney, and Gladys Quayle, Beekeeper. Mrs. M. Walker, Y.M.M.I.A. president, served refreshments.

December 16th South Shields held a Primary and Sunday School Christmas party. Games were conducted by Elder Victor E. Gilbert and Alma Thomson. Each of the forty children present received a gift.

At Carlisle Christmas social on December 23rd Beehive girls under the direction of Elder Clarence L. Olsen and Joyce H. Tiffen presented a Christmas play. Games were conducted by M.I.A. President Grant Hofter.

NORWICH DISTRICT

Reported by T. M. Aldous

The Norwich District was alive with socials during the past weeks.

First in the Norwich Branch was the Primary Party with seventy parents and children attending. It was highlighted with the arrival of Father Christmas who distributed sweets and presents to the children. Another children's social was the Sunday School party where games, sweets, and crackers were enjoyed by the forty-five in attendance.

Forty-five were present to enjoy the M.I.A. banquet and party, which was the main attraction for the teen-age and adult groups. It was made possible with American food parcels and the co-operation of the local Saints.

Mrs. Olive Rayner, who will shortly immigrate to America, was released as president of the Norwich Branch Re-

lief Society on January 9th, with Mrs. Doreen Watts being sustained in her place.

In Peterborough Elders Thomas Harper and Jack Cornia opened the first of their meetings in the writing room of the Grand Hotel with President Rawson and President George W. Palmer as the main speakers. There were twenty-four in attendance.

At Cambridge several children enjoyed the Primary Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Florence Musgraves, who also furnished the refreshments. A Christmas social was also held on December 22nd with thirty-five present. Refreshments and a forty-five minute programme were provided by the members and investigators.

Another member was added to the Cambridge Branch with the baptism of Mr. Jim Musgraves at the Norwich chapel December 19th. He was baptised by Elder Lysle G. Munns and confirmed by President George W. Palmer.

NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT

Reported by June Wilson

A baptismal service took place at Victoria Baths, Nottingham, January 15th. Clifford George Hodkinson, Terence John Severn, Edith Hurst, and Josephine Sheila Gilbert were baptised by Elders Melvin R. Ballard, Sidney J. Nebeker, and Noble V. King and confirmed by Elders Keith Tibbitts, Sidney J. Nebeker, L. B. Campbell, and Howard E. Hollingsworth.

On December 26th Nottingham Saints enjoyed a party with every one of the forty people present receiving a gift from "Santa."

Derby and Mansfield M.I.A.'s held a Christmas party during December, for which food was provided by M Men and Gleaner parcels from the United States. Primary children of Derby put on a Christmas pageant on December 20th.

January 1st Mansfield Sunday School children enjoyed their annual party and prizes.

December 16th the Christmas festivities began with a good start in Leicester with a concert given by the Primary children. Two days later the Sunday School and Primary children were treated to a party by the officers and teachers of Leicester.

At the Vestney Street Baths in Leicester a baptismal service took place December 18th. Laura Margaret Hedley and Dennis Hedley were baptised by Elder James O. Duncan and confirmed by Elders Thomas W. Ward, Jnr., and Douglas C. Duncan.

On Sunday, December 19th, fifty people attended a carol service in Leicester, and afterwards twenty-six met for a Fireside Chat at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts.

SCOTTISH DISTRICT Reported by Betty Sutherland

The Scottish District has started well in the New Year. All meetings have had increased attendance, due to the untiring efforts of the district missionaries.

Two socials were held in the Airdrie Branch hall, the M.I.A. and Sunday School Christmas socials. The children of the Sunday School portrayed the "Birth of the Saviour." One of the highlights of the evening was the distribution to everyone of a gift. The M.I.A. social was also a great success. A large crowd enjoyed dancing, music, and games. Through the kindness of the M Men and Gleaners of Canada who sent us parcels, everyone present received a small parcel to take home.

During the month of December two socials were held in the Edinburgh Branch. The first was organised by the Sunday School to which the Primary children were also invited. Prizes were given to the children for good attendance and conduct during the past year, and a joyous evening was had by all. The M.I.A. also had a social which was a great success. On Christmas Eve members of the Edinburgh M.I.A. went caroling to the homes of friends and members of the branch. During the month attendance at all activities increased.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT Reported by Arvilla Smith

With food and gifts supplied by American M.I.A. packages forty M Men and Gleaners of the Sheffield Branch enjoyed a Christmas party in the Latter-day Saint hall December 21st. On Christmas Eve M.I.A. members had a good time caroling. A week later the M.I.A. officers entertained branch members at a dinner and social evening, after which a New Year's Eve watch night service was held in the chapel.

Members of the district enjoyed a fancy dress ball in the Sheffield recreation hall on January 1st. Mr. Harry Harrison acted as M.C., and prizes were given for the most original costumes.



Parties for the Sheffield children included a Sunday School party, with food supplied by the Relief Society, and one for the Primary, refreshments being provided from food sent by Primaries in America.

To raise funds for church decoration a social evening was held in the Sheffield Branch hall January 16th. Refreshments were served by the Relief Society while the M.I.A. took charge of entertainment.

Sixty children, members, and friends of the Doncaster Branch were entertained at a Christmas party December 18th, with food being prepared by the Relief Society.

Castleford Branch was reorganised January 2nd with Elder William A. Earnshaw replacing Elder Francis Bitton as branch president.

Farewells were said to Mr. and Mrs. John Snow and family of Sheffield and Mrs. Lillian Thornton of Doncaster at socials held in their honour during the past month. They recently immigrated to America.

Two baptisms were held during the month of December. Patricia Porter of the Sheffield Branch was baptised December 18th by Elder Gordon Condie and confirmed by Kenneth Bailey. Two days later Mary Atkinson, also of Sheffield, was baptised by Kenneth Bailey and confirmed by Elder J. Vaughn Hobson.

WELSH DISTRICT

Reported by Vaughn L. Terry

The Christmas season brought two gala occasions to the Merthyr Tydfil Branch. The M.I.A. was the sponsor of the two events, one a social the other a dance. M.I.A. gift parcels from America added greatly to both affairs.

After many weeks of diligent practice the Pontypool Branch chorus, under the able direction of Elder Ernest M. Jones, presented a Christmas cantata to the Merthyr and Pontypool Branches. The wide acclaim of

members, friends and investigators will no doubt prompt such a production during the next Yuletide season.

Good news has recently come to us that Beatrice Howells, formerly of Wales, has been chosen queen of the Gold and Green Ball in a large ward in Salt Lake City.

A contingent of Boy Scouts and missionaries of the Welsh District were the special guests of the Cardiff Docks Management on January 6th. Boy Scouts from each of the Welsh branches were invited to attend this special excursion through the dock area. It is hoped that in the not too distant future each branch will have a large progressive scout troop.

Elder Melvin C. Hartshorn was sustained as president of the Cardiff Branch on January 5th, replacing Horace V. Barrett who with his family emigrated to Utah on January 17th.

NEW "STAR" ON THE HORIZON

AMBITIOUS ex-missionaries to post-war Britain have found a means to keep alive their contact with fellow missionaries whom they learned to know and love as companions in the field, but who now are scattered the length and breadth of America. Under the official title of "Your Missionary Committee" this live-wire group installed Elder Melvin M. Owens as secretary and in December ran off the first annual edition of the "Millennial Star-ler"—no less. In this new "Star" appeared a paragraph of folksy information about each returned missionary who had replied to the questionnaire faithfully dispatched by "Your Missionary Committee" to each address as received from the British Mission office.

Undoubtedly as the years go by, each issue will be welcomed for the news it brings, for the friendship it renews, and for the precious memories it cannot help but bring of those verdant years in the British Mission.

The bound volumes will be priceless.

BASKETBALL TEAM TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

NATIONAL basketball champions of England and Wales (Latter-day Saint missionaries of London) left January 24th on the first leg of a tour that will take them as far into Europe as Czechoslovakia for a series of basketball matches with continental teams. Paris will be the first stop, where several exhibition games will be played before making the journey to Prague, Czechoslovakia. They will be in Czechoslovakia for at least ten days. The return journey will be routed to include contests with U.S. Army teams in Germany and several quintettes along the French Riviera.

Members of the Latter-day Saint aggregation making the trip are Captain James L. Mortensen, Archie J. Haskins, L. Ralph Mecham, Douglas Duncan, Ronald R. Salo, George T. Choules, Quinn McKay, James Toone, Hugh S. West, and Richard W. Hendricks.

PERSONALS

BIRTHS

GOUNDRY.—Norman Goundry, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. George Goundry of the South London Branch, was blessed by his father on December 5th.

WEIR.—Margaret Weir, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Weir of Brighton, was blessed by Elder Evans Royle.

WEIR.—William Weir, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Weir of Brighton, was blessed by Elder Franz Johansen.

JONES.—Donetta Nancy Jones, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jones, was born on November 30th.

DICK.—Neil David Dick, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Dick of Dundee, was blessed December 12th by President Reed M. Izatt.

DEATHS

TOPE.—Rebecca Tope, aged 67, passed away on December 11th. Funeral services at her home were conducted by Branch President D. R. Willis and Elder William L. Blackwell.

JOHNSON.—Funeral services conducted by President Lorry E. Rytting were held January 4th for Mr. Ernest Johnson, who passed away at his home in Oldham on December 30th. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and their daughter, Edna.

SAVAGE.—Mrs. Elizabeth Savage, one of the oldest members of the Bradford Branch, died on January 13th. Her funeral was held at her home, and interment took place at Knaresborough, President R. L. Jack presiding at the services.

EMIGRATIONS

FUDGE.—Mrs. Daisy Fudge and her daughter, Rose Fudge, emigrated from the Gateshead Branch on December 17th, sailing aboard the "Queen Mary."

SMITH.—Mr. David O. Smith and his daughter, Dora Smith, of the South London Branch, left for America December 20th, sailing on the "Mauretania." They will make their home in Vale, Oregon.

LEDGARD.—Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ledgard and family of the Bradford Branch were honoured at a farewell social on November 20th, prior to their leaving for Salt Lake City.

AITKEN.—James Aitken and Ruth Aitken of the Liverpool Branch immigrated to America on the "Britannic" December 3rd.

JAMES.—Margaret James of the Liverpool Branch emigrated aboard the "Britannic" on December 3rd.

McADAM.—Joyce McAdam emigrated from the Liverpool Branch on December 3rd aboard the "Britannic."

NEWMAN.—Mr. and Mrs. Joyce Newman of the Liverpool District emigrated during the month of December to make their home in California.

WYNN.—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wynn and family, formerly of South London, sailed for America on December 30th.

LONGTON.—Mr. Roy Longton, also of Oldham, sailed November 30th on the "Aquitania."

HAIGH.—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Haigh and family of Oldham left from Liverpool on December 10th, bound for Australia.

HAMPSTEAD.—Mr. and Mrs. George Hampstead and family emigrated from the Sheffield Branch on November 28th, not Mr. and Mrs. George Stubbs as announced in the January Star.

MASSEY.—Mr. and Mrs. John Massey and their daughter, Audrey, of the Oldham Branch, sailed from Southampton aboard the "S.S. America" on December 30th. They will make their home in Tooele, Utah.

BARRETT.—Mr. and Mrs. Horace V. Barrett and family of the Cardiff Branch immigrated to Orem, Utah, on January 17th, aboard the "S.S. Marine Lynx."

MELLOR.—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mellor of Oldham sailed for Canada from Southampton on board the "Aquitania" November 30th.

OUR EUROPEAN MISSIONS— CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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pean continent, and within twenty-four hours President and Sister Toronto, together with their family and the missionaries, were evacuated. They had received permission from government officials to travel to Berlin, and from there to Copenhagen, Denmark, where they waited six weeks for sailing accommodations, which were finally arranged on a freighter for the trip home.

After the terrible World War II had come to a close, President Toronto was again called to preside over the mission and on June 27th, 1946, he arrived in Prague accompanied by Elders Victor Bell and Heber Jacobs as the first missionaries since the conclusion of the war. Needless to say they were greeted with open arms and with tears of joy. This small group was happy to find that the work had progressed well in spite of the ravages of war and difficulty, under the able leadership of Brother Josef Roubicek, who had previously been appointed as the local mission president in the absence of President Toronto. Regular meetings had been conducted during the war years in both Prague and Brno, and occasional meetings were held in Mladá Boleslav. A monthly mission magazine, "The New Voice," had been published since October, 1945, and had gained quite a wide distribution. In face of almost impossible conditions, a fine stone monument was erected on the site where the mission was dedicated on a shady hill somewhat guarding and overlooking Karlstejn Castle, the most powerful fortress of medieval Bohemia. It was later made a national monument. During the war, suffering was great, but most of our members had been well blessed. A few had been bombed from their homes, and some suffered illness as a result of malnutrition. The excellent spirit and the devotion to the Gospel of a majority of the members, however, was indeed heartening and inspiring. Among the welcome items of reorganisation upon return of the missionaries was the dis-

tribution of much needed welfare food-stuffs and clothing. The gratitude of the recipients was beyond measure.

The following year brought the arrival of Sister Toronto and family of five children along with four missionaries, and since that time, regular groups of missionaries have arrived almost every month until our force has increased to thirty-five, the highest number of missionaries to ever serve at one time in Czechoslovakia, including two lady missionaries, the first who have ever been called to serve in this mission. A missionary training course was set up immediately to lay a solid basis for their progress in the Czech language.

Work has now expanded to thirteen fields of labour in Bohemia and Moravia, ten of which are practically new. Sunday Schools, Relief Societies, and Mutuals are growing in attendance continually, and there is a general feeling that the Czech people have become filled with the desire to hear the words of the Gospel of Christ to soothe their sore hearts and troubled minds. During the month of June of last year, the mission wholeheartedly welcomed the visit of President Alma Sonne. His coming inspired a conference at which record breaking crowds attended each meeting.

And now, the Czechoslovak Mission is looking to the new year with vigorous anticipation of the work that is to be done here . . . even in the face of new political upheavals, and with many varied and complex problems, some of which seem to be beyond the capacity of the human mind to solve. For continued success, however, we know that we must live righteously according to every precept of the Gospel and depend upon the Lord for His faultless guidance during these trying and baffling circumstances in which Central Europe finds herself today. We acknowledge the hand of the Lord in giving us guidance and protection and feel that despite these conditions, the Lord will bless us in our work, and that the worthy may hear, recognise, and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

PROVIDING— THE LORD'S WAY

—continued from page 35

From a humble beginning the programme has developed rapidly in the Stakes of Zion. It is also being carried forward with much success in many of the missions in the nations of the earth.

To carry the programme forward, no new organisation or machinery has been set up. A small group of men (at present, eight) known as the General Church Welfare Committee were called to serve as the agents of the General Authorities of the Church to co-ordinate the work throughout the Church and to relieve the General Authorities of many of the details of the work. Stake Welfare officers meet once a month or oftener as a Welfare Committee to handle welfare matters on a stake level.

Every two months, groups from stakes contiguous to each other meet in a "regional" meeting to consider matters of common and mutual interest.

But the great burden of caring for the poor and looking after temporal

affairs of the members of the Church rests, as always, upon the Bishops, who may call to their assistance any or all of the members of their wards. It is particularly necessary that the members of Bishoprics, the members of ward Relief Society organisations, and representatives of Melchizedek Priesthood quorums shall meet every week to consider welfare problems of the members of the ward. This group constitutes the Ward Welfare Committee. It has been said:

"The Welfare Plan is a tool to be used by regularly organised Church units to improve the physical and spiritual well-being of all members. Let each bushel of wheat be gathered, each dollar be expended, and each order of groceries distributed with the true understanding that we are dealing with human souls, not in kernels, coins or canned goods." (L.D.S. Church Welfare Handbook of Instruction, published January, 1944)

The success that has attended this movement and its marvellous accomplishments during thirteen short years will be briefly reviewed in the March issue of the *Millennial Star*.

THE CHURCH IN OXFORD

—continued from page 44

labours in Oxford, bringing the total number of newly-baptised members to eight.

A further highlight of progress in Oxford was a public meeting held November 17th at which President Alma Sonne of the European Mission spoke to a group of one hundred people gathered in the Town Hall.

One more red letter day was January 22nd when three more good Oxford people were received into the Church through the waters of baptism.

Whatever small success has been achieved in cracking the hard shell of Oxford has been through the inspira-

tion and guidance of the Lord. We had been told that in former times missionaries were driven out of the city by the undergraduate students of Oxford University. In this second attempt we have been richly blessed. With six members moving into the branch added to the eleven new converts our branch population now numbers twenty-three, and five others have requested baptism. Besides this some thirty-five additional homes are open for investigation of the Gospel message.

The flower is starting to blossom, God is giving the increase, and we would humbly agree with a statement made in a recent issue of the "Isis," Oxford University weekly magazine: "The 'Mormons' have a big future in Oxford."

THE PROPHETS

—continued from page 37

the destructive influences rampant in their day. Jesus and His Apostles assailed the corruption and hypocrisy of Scribes and Pharisees, established the Church and proclaimed the gospel of peace and love which "is the power of God unto salvation." (Romans 1: 16) Amos, the Prophet, expressed the necessity and importance of divine revelation when he said "Surely, the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret to his servants the prophets." (Amos 3: 7) The righteous must be prepared and the wicked warned, for the judgments of the Almighty will shortly come to pass as predicted.

Modern prophets also have come to clear the way and to reveal the mind and will of God. The world is being advised of the restoration of Christ's Gospel. A new dispensation of revealed knowledge has been ushered in. Prophecies concerning the latter days are being fulfilled. Confusion, controversy, and contradictions characterize the religious organisations of modern Christendom, and the decadence and failure of the churches striving for prominence and supremacy are clearly in evidence. It was so in the beginning of the nineteenth century. The contending factions claimed to be followers of the persecuted and martyred Nazarene; but all disagreed on fundamental teachings and doctrines set forth in the New Testament. Unity was impossible. Rivalry, strife,

jealousies, and contention signalled their departure from the Master's gospel of love and good will. In the midst of such deeply disturbed conditions and unfriendly demonstrations, another prophet was sent to enlighten the world and point the way.

That Prophet was Joseph Smith, a farmer's son. He came from the common ranks of men. He had no worldly background, no scholarly attainments and no social standing to justify his selection. He was chosen because of his humility and his susceptibility to divine truth. His mind was free from the traditions, superstitions and fallacies of the past. He had little to unlearn, few prejudices to overcome and no man-made theories to lay aside. He was pliable in the hands of God and impressionable to the Spirit's promptings and heavenly inspiration. God's ways are not man's ways. The all-wise Creator and Ruler will provide His own representatives at the appointed time. He cares nothing for the distinctions which make men wise in their own eyes and prominent in the estimation of others.

Joseph Smith, like all the prophets, was chosen before he was born. He was foreordained to do his work. His capabilities, his trustworthiness, and his leadership had been determined before his earthly advent. So the understanding of the prudent is often hidden before the miracles of the Almighty. Time will fully vindicate the words of the prophets.

RED-LETTER NOTES

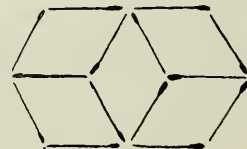
—continued from page 45

It was with regret that I left South Molton and glorious Devon. This land of my forefathers was sacred ground to me. When I called at the food office to say goodbye to my friend, he pressed a pound note into my hand. "For the work of the Lord," he said.

May God bless him for his kindness to one of His servants, and may the message of the restored Gospel find a response in the hearts of those good people.

ANSWER TO "TRICKY"

(Children's page.)



ORCHIDS TO "STAR" AGENTS

THE "MILLENNIAL STAR" wishes to express its appreciation for the loyal service being performed by all of its circulation agents throughout the mission. Those to whom this word of praise is directed, who are continuing to serve as Branch "Millennial Star" Circulation Agents, are listed below:

Aberdeen—Ella Findlay.
Airdrie—Elizabeth McLuskie.
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West Hartlepool—Hilda Fisher.
Wigan—Clifford E. Hartley.

Others to whom the Star would also extend a hearty "thank you" for the good work they are doing in distributing Stars each month are these:

John Atkinson—Middlesbrough.
Jonathan Bennett—Kidderminster.
Vernal Bowden—Stockport.
Mervin Brown—Accrington.
Doris Camm—Leeds.
W. O. Chipping—St. Albans.
George T. Choules—South London.
Clara E. Evans—Bradford.
Thomas Graham—Airdrie.
H. H. Hall—Nottingham.
G. E. Hunter—Nuneaton.
Ralph Jack—Bradford.

Franz Johansen—Brighton.
George W. Laycock—Sheffield.
R. Morris—Liverpool.
Ernest G. Osborn—St. Albans.
Frank P. Reese—Rochdale.
Robert Shaw—Stockport.
Stanley Short—West Hartlepool.
John Snow—Sheffield.
George Wappett—Darlington.
Newell Warr—Sheffield.
A. Woodruf—Hyde.

1947 "STAR" INDEXES AVAILABLE

INDEXES to Volume 109 (1947) of the Millennial Star are now available and may be obtained by submitting 2½d. in stamps to the Millennial Star, 149 Nightingale Lane, Balham, London, S.W.12.

ORCHIDS AGAIN

TO Wally Chiles of the South London Branch the Star says "thanks" for the drawing which appears as the new page heading for Red-Letter Notes.

NEW MILLENNIAL CHORUS TO TOUR MISSION

A NEW MILLENNIAL CHORUS, consisting of eight voices directed by Elder John S. Cornwall, will begin this month a tour of the British Mission to include a stay of several days in each district. Carrying with them a new technicolour, sound film of scenic Utah, the travelling company is prepared to stage a full evening of stage and screen entertainment. Missionaries are now busy scheduling performances throughout the mission with clubs, schools, hospitals and other interested groups.



Top row: R. Byng Beazer, John S. Cornwall, Thomas W. Ward, Jr.,
David R. Campbell, Ralph W. Hardy
Bottom row: Edgar M. Gardner, Doral Thacker, Frank M. Carlisle,
Harold M. Dougal

Not only will choral numbers be featured by the group but vocal and instrumental solos as well. As a special attraction several vocal numbers combined with Elder Ralph Hardy's superb violin obligato are being rehearsed. Solo numbers from Elder Hardy's violin, Elder Frank M. Carlisle with his mellow trombone, and accompanist Elder Thomas W. Ward, Jr., round out the instrumental talent.

In charge of the company is Elder Archie J. Haskins, Mission Y.M.M.I.A. president. As part of the M.I.A. drama programme, every branch is presenting in turn a contest play entitled, "I'll Eat My Hat." On the night of each play presentation the Millennial Chorus will join forces with the branch M.I.A. to make a first class road show performance for the evening that no connoisseur of good entertainment will want to miss. Play contest winner among the branches will be announced at the end of the tour.

Little trouble is expected with conflicting appointments for this versatile group. If necessary the chorus can divide into quartettes to make two separate performances, while the film-lecturer can take a third appointment, should the occasion arise. Always the opportunity will be taken to present to the audiences some portion of the Gospel message.

The schedule for visiting the districts is as follows:

February 1st—27th - - London	May 11th—25th - - Scotland
February 28th—March 6th Norwich	May 26th—June 2nd - - Ireland
March 7th—21st - - Nottingham	June 3rd—11th - - London
March 22nd—31st - - Sheffield	June 12th—27th - - Liverpool
April 1st—10th - - - Hull	June 28th—July 12th - Manchester
April 11th—25th - - - Leeds	July 13th—26th - Birmingham
April 26th—May 10th - Newcastle	July 27th—August 3rd - Wales
August 4th—14th - - - Bristol	